*169. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of sluggish progress in the highway projects, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has prepared a detailed report and submitted it to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the execution of several road projects has considerably slowed down in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the factors responsible for the same and the reaction of Government on the inadequate progress of various road projects?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Review of progress of implementation of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) by the National Highways authority of India (NHAI) is an ongoing process. During the process of review, various constraints in implementation are identified and necessary steps are taken for resolution of the issues so as to ensure timely implementation of the project.

(c) and (d) There have been some delays in execution of projects during past few years due to problems in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, delays in obtaining Environmental and Forest clearances, poor law and order situation in some parts of the country, and poor performance by contractors etc. It is the endeavour of the Government to address various issues after due consultations with all concerned to expedite the execution of various projects. The details of steps taken to expedite the implementation of Projects under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) are given in the Statement.

Statement

Efforts of Government to expedite implementation of the projects

a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways.

b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the NHDP such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.

c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre - State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs.

d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has been simplified. Earlier all the

notification under NH Act were vetted by the Ministry of Law. Recently, an amendment has been made in the Allocation of Business Rules by which these notifications are not required to be sent to the Ministry of Law. The Ministry of Law has approved the standard formats of various notifications keeping in view the similar nature of the notifications of Land Acquisition.

e) To expedite the construction of ROBs an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has also been signed with M/s. IRCON for construction of some of the ROBs.

f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

g) Terminated contracts have been re-awarded by the NHAI.

NIA to investigate fake currency crimes

*170. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to investigate a fake Indian currency notes (FICN) related crime registered by anti-terrorism squad of Maharashtra police recently;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Inter-State and International linkages behind the printing and circulation of fake Indian currency notes have increased in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government proposes to eliminate such networks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has directed the National Investigation Agency to investigate a Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) case No. 07/09 registered at Police Station, ATS, Mumbai under sections 489A, 489B, 489C and 120B IPC.

(c) As per available information, cases having inter-State and international linkages behind printing and circulation of FICNs have come to notice. Available inputs also indicate that the international dimension of FICN circulation has increased in the last few years.

(d) To address the multi-dimensional aspects of the FICN menace, several agencies such as the RBI, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Intelligence Agencies of the Centre, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), etc. are working in tandem to thwart the nefarious activity related to FICNs. The activities of these agencies are also periodically reviewed in a nodal group set up for this purpose. In this context, at the functional level, the CBI has been declared as the nodal agency for coordination with the States; the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence has been nominated as the Lead intelligence Agency for this purpose. Apart from the above, the State